



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/579,275	05/26/2000	Hideharu Toda	000673	7796

23850 7590 10/23/2003

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP
1725 K STREET, NW
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

LAO, LUN S

ART UNIT- 2643 PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/579,275

Applicant(s)

TODA ET AL.

Examiner

Lun-See Lao

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. This action response to the amendment filed on 08/08/2003. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended and claims 1-5 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washikawa (US PAT. 5,838,393) in view of Simpson (US PAT. 5,838,393).

Consider claims 1-2 Washikawa teaches a component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components (see fig.3 (11R-14R)) for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, at least one signal input component (11P-14P) for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit (22, 31) having connected thereto the signal output components (11R-14R) and the signal input component (11P-14P), the signal processing control unit being operable to process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components

Art Unit: 2643

(11R-14R) as required for sound and/or image reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered from the desired signal output component (11R-14R) to the signal input component (11P-14P), the component selection control system being characterized in that (see col.3 line 10-col.4 line 50). But Washikawa does not teach clearly each of the signal output components (see fig.3 (11R-14R)) has separate and independent on-off switch provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit (22) there through, the signal processing control unit (22) having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component (11R-14R), the signal output lines of the signal output components (11R-14R) being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit (22, 31), the on off switches (21,32) being controllable independently for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit.

However, Simpson teaches each of the signal output components (see fig.1, 118) has separate and independent on-off switch (see fig.2, 234) provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit (see fig.2, (200, 206)) there through, the signal processing control unit (200 and 206) having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal (216-230) from the desired signal output component (236-242), the signal output lines of the signal output components (236-242) being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit (206), the on off switches (214, 234) being controllable independently for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding

Art Unit: 2643

its AV signal to the signal processing control unit (200 and 206 and see col.3 line 16-col.4 line 12).

Therefore, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Washikawa into Simpon to improve switching system that enables an operator to select device and have all the signals of the source device automatically provided to the destination device.

Consider claim 2, Washikawa teaches the signal processing control unit (see fig.3, (22, 31)) inherently has a common output terminal for delivering the AV signal to the signal input component (11P-14P), and the common output terminal is connected to a signal input line of the signal input component (11R-14R and see col.4 line 30-col.5 line 60).

Consider claim 3, Washikawa teaches a component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components (see fig.3 (11R-14R)) for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, a plurality of signal input components (11P-14P) for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit (22, 31) having connected thereto the signal output components (11R-14R) and the signal input components (11P-14P), the signal processing control unit being operable to process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components (11R-14R) as required for audio and/or video reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered from the desired signal output component to desired one or more of the signal input components (11P-14P), the component selection control system being characterized in that (see col.3 line 10-col.5 line 50); but Washikawa does not teach

Art Unit: 2643

clearly each of the signal output components (11R-14R) has a separate and independent on-off switch (21,32) provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit (31) there through, each of the signal input components (11P-14P) having an on-off switch (21,32) provided on a signal input line for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit (22) there through, the signal processing control unit (22,31) inherently having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component and a common output terminal for delivering the AV signal to the desired signal input component (11P-14P), the signal output lines of the signal output components (11R-14R) being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit (22), the signal input lines of the signal input components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common output terminal of the signal processing control unit (31), the on-off switches (21,32) being controllable for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit (22) and to select one or more of the signal input components (11P-14P) for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit, wherein when more than one signal input component is selected than more than one on-off switch is turned on.

However, Simpson teaches each of the signal output components (see fig.1, 118) has a separate and independent on-off switch (see fig.2, 234) provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit (see fig.2, (200, 206))) there through, each of the signal input components (see fig.1, 116) having

Art Unit: 2643

an on-off switch (see fig.2, 214) provided on a signal input line for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit (see fig.2, (200, 206)) there through, the signal processing control unit (200, 206) inherently having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component and a common output terminal for delivering the AV signal to the desired signal input component (see fig.1, (106 and 116)), the signal output lines of the signal output components (see fig.1, (108, 118)) being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit (see fig.2, (200,206)), the signal input lines of the signal input components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common output terminal of the signal processing control unit (200, 206), the on-off switches (see fig.2, (214, 234)) being controllable for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit (200, 206) and to select one or more of the signal input components (see fig.1, (106, 116)) for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit (see fig.2, (200, 206)), wherein when more than one signal input component is selected than more than one on-off switch is turned on (see col.3 line 16-col.4 line 12).

Therefore, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Washikawa into Simpon to improve switching system that enables an operator to select device and have all the signals of the source device automatically provided to the destination device.

Consider claim 4-5, Washikawa teaches the AV signal to be delivered from the signal output component (11R-14R) and fed to the signal input component (13-14) is an audio

Art Unit: 2643

signal, and the signal processing control unit comprises an amplifier circuit for amplifying (24) the audio signal received by the common input terminal and feeding the resulting signal to a subsequent speaker (25), and a signal feed line for feeding there through the audio signal received by the common input terminal (see col.7 line 25-col.8 line 20); and each of the signal output components (11R-14R) and the signal input components (11P-14P) inherently has a control circuit (such as 33 (power source circuit) for controlling the on-off switch (21,32) thereof for opening or closing, and the control circuit prepares a control signal for the on-off switch (21,32) in response to a command from a control circuit included in the signal processing control unit (22, 31 and see col.4 15-col.5 line 65).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2643

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9314

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lao, Lun-See whose telephone number is (703) 305-2259. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

Application/Control Number: 09/579,275

Page 9

Art Unit: 2643

should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Lao, Lun-See
Patent Examiner
US Patent and Trademark Office
Crystal Park 2
(703) 305-2259


DUC NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXA